

MOREY & JOANNE BUTLER  
CROTON TOWNSHIP  
NEWAYGO COUNTY MICHIGAN

TO: Lisa McGraw

RE: Bill To Eliminate Publishing Legal Notices in Newspapers

We have been out of the United States on an extended trip and my sister had saved the last 17 issues of the Times Indicator published in Newaygo County. Upon reading the Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> issue regarding "**Keeping Public Notices Public**" and to learn of the house bills under consideration, which will eliminate hard copy public notice, is downright frightening for Joanne and myself.

We experienced the 800 pound gorilla effect of having our internet, telephone and television all **COMPLETELY BLOCKED** by the government of China, Japan and Russia.

China – Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – either in port in China or in Chinese waters – no internet, no telephone, and no television.

Japan – Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 – either in port in Japan or in Japanese waters – no internet, no telephone and no television.

Russia – Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – we were in Petropavlovsk, Siberia – no internet, no telephone and no television.

In Siberia the Russian officials boarded the ship and took control of passport information and dictated when passengers could leave the ship. The officials also detained the ship from leaving port for about 4 hours.

Where we live, in Newaygo County, internet broadband and/or wireless internet is NOT available to us – only dial-up, tying up our telephone. We also have a large number of acquaintances that do not have a computer and have no intention of ever accessing or owning a computer...

We respect the concerns of our elected officials to wisely spend taxpayer dollars; however, no longer printing public notices is to high a price to pay.

We have experienced first hand that by controlling the internet switch the government completely controls the spoken word. We must keep public notices available to **ALL** of the residents of Michigan.

Please do not pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Morey Butler ~ Newaygo County Clerk – Retired

Joanne Butler